

(0666/01/009)

Approved for Release

Date CIA 9/10/12



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
12 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

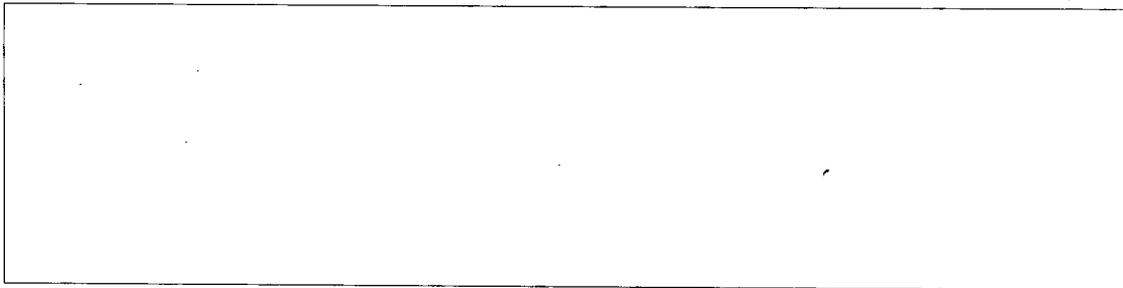
MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 117
(as of 0630 EST)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

(All times cited in military paragraphs are
Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. Except for one report of small arms firing on
the Egyptian front at dawn in the southern sector of
the canal, the cease-fire remains unmarred. There were
no reports of violations on the Syrian front.



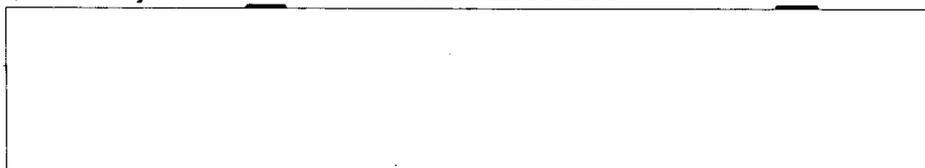
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SYRIA AND THE CEASE-FIRE

3. In giving Damascus' tacit approval of the
cease-fire, the central command of the Syrian National
Progressive Front yesterday said that the battle had
shifted from one arena to another, bringing the con-
flict to a more comprehensive stage where the political
and military struggles intermingle.



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4. The statement hailed the performance of the Arab forces in 17-day "ferocious fight," pointed out the importance of the use of the oil weapon, and highlighted the increase in national and Arab unity that had emerged during the war.

5. AFP reported from Damascus last night that Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam had told a French parliamentary delegation that European and African representation to any peace conference would be a sine qua non of Syria's participation.

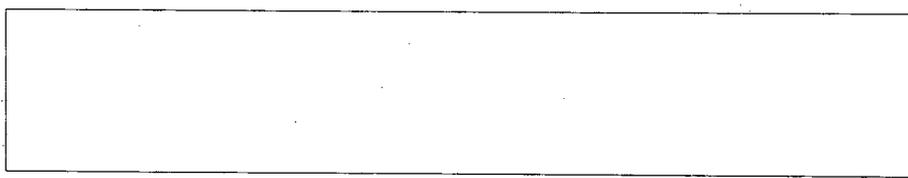
MEDIA REACTION TO THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT

6. A leading Baghdad newspaper, in questioning the value of the 11 November cease-fire agreement, rhetorically asks why should Egypt and other Arab states--after confronting the "Zionist entity for 25 years--now be willing to deal with Israel simply on the condition that Israel implements the Security Council resolutions of November 1967 and October 1973?

7. A commentary on Cairo Radio's "Voice of the Arabs" argued yesterday that a return to war, as a way to settle the Middle East situation, is still one of the strongest possibilities. The broadcast said the first priority is the maintenance of Arab unity. The commentator alleged that Israel does not want peace, that all Tel Aviv is seeking to do is to exploit a cease-fire while putting its domestic affairs in order--to overcome the morale and materiel shocks it suffered in the conflict--and preparing for a new round of war.

8. The Israeli press is taking a very cautious attitude toward the cease-fire agreement. Most newspapers said some good could come out of the agreement--such as the exchange of prisoners of war--but that there were inherent dangers.

9. According to press accounts, this week's edition of Newsweek reports that US officials told top



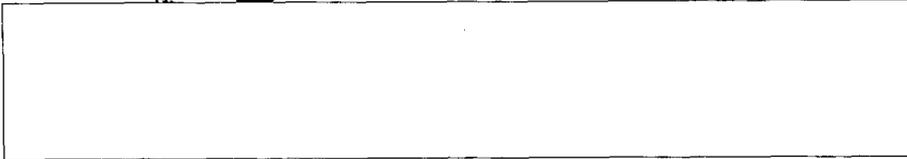
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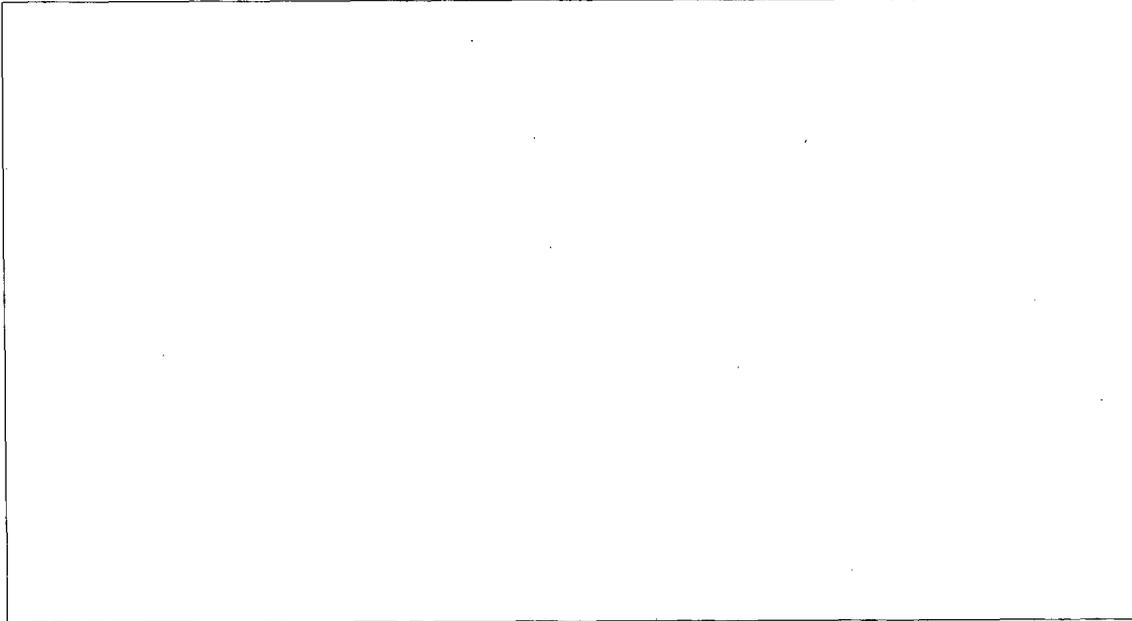
Egyptians that Tel Aviv could be persuaded to withdraw from the Sinai within one year. The magazine also claims that Secretary Kissinger and President Sadat agreed "in principle" to a pullback of Egyptian and Israeli forces, once POWs have been exchanged. The pullback would require Israeli forces to withdraw into the Sinai along a line about 12 miles east of the canal. Egypt, in turn, would withdraw most of its forces from the east bank, leaving only "token units" behind. UN Emergency Forces would then be interposed between the two sides. Assistant Secretary Sisco is reported to have told Sadat aides that "the mood is changing in the US in favor of the Arabs."

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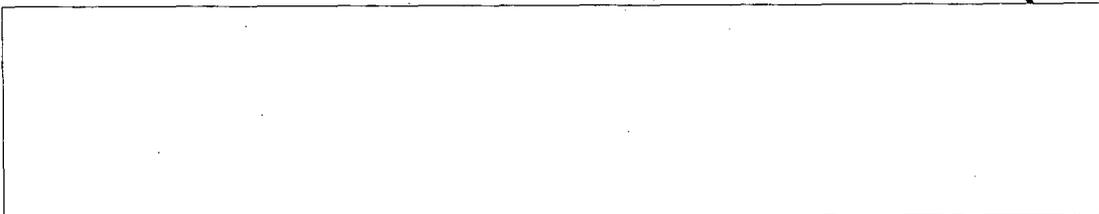
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UNEF-ZAIRE

14. Zaire Head of State General Mobutu has agreed to send a contingent of 600 soldiers to the UNEF, according to a press report from Kinshasa.

SOVIET SEALIFT

15. No new ships have entered the sealift. Since 7 October 40 ships have carried more than 93,000 tons of suspect military cargo to Middle East ports.



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